

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method of providing error correction in an integrated circuit (IC) to enable the replacement of a defective logic function implemented within the IC, the method comprising:
- providing an embedded field programmable gate array (FPGA) in the IC to perform logic error correction;
 - identifying a defective logic function within the IC;
 - programming the embedded FPGA to replace the defective logic function;
 - identifying all inputs in an input cone of logic of the defective logic function;
 - directing all inputs in the input cone of logic of the defective logic function into the embedded FPGA, such that the embedded FPGA replaces the defective logic function with an error corrected version of the defective logic function;
 - identifying all outputs in an output cone of logic of the defective logic function;
 - directing an output of the FPGA to the output cone of logic of the defective logic function, such that logic error correction is provided within the embedded FPGA structure of the IC.

- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing registers and associated circuitry designed to manipulate a scanned data stream;
providing error correction for defective data of the defective logic function;
placing a logic macro implemented in the IC into a wait state; and
scanning data from the defective logic function into the FPGA and the registers and associated circuitry to implement error correction.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 2, wherein a scan chain defines a data path through the IC, and a feedback loop is formed to direct corrected data of the scan chain to a register boundary of the defective logic function, whereupon the logic macro discontinues the wait state and resumes normal processing.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, wherein a scan chain defines a data path through the IC, and corrected data of the scan chain is scanned back around, upstream or downstream, to an origin of the corrected data.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of said embedded FPGAs are strategically placed throughout the design of the logic function IC.

- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of scan chains define a plurality of data paths through the IC, and a plurality of said embedded FPGAs are strategically placed throughout the design of the logic function IC to correct data in the plurality of scan chains.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of scan chains define a plurality of data paths through the IC, and data to be corrected in the plurality of scan chains are multiplexed into a single dedicated FPGA that is time multiplexed between the plurality of scan chains.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of scan chains define a plurality of data paths through the IC, and data to be corrected in the plurality of scan chains are multiplexed into a single FPGA that is time multiplexed between the plurality of scan chains and also with normal system functions performed by the single FPGA.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1, further including:
identifying defective logic functions of the IC;
tracing a cone of logic of each identified defective logic function forward and backward to register boundaries;
identifying a plurality of correction solutions, such as correcting bad data bits, correcting upstream data, correcting downstream data;

selecting and implementing one or more of the correction solutions.

- [c10] 10. The method of claim 1, further including:
identifying defective logic functions in a logic macro implemented in the IC;
analyzing dataflow through the IC with respect to each identified defective logic function; and
identifying an optimum stage in the IC logic macro for which a logic breakpoint may be inserted to enable replacement of a defective logic function.
- [c11] 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the logic breakpoint is set by a comparison of a program count of a program counter for the IC with a preselected count of the program counter.
- [c12] 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the logic breakpoint is set based upon a preselected number of clock cycles of a clock of the IC.
- [c13] 13. The method of claim 1, further including:
identifying defective logic functions in a logic macro implemented in the IC;
analyzing dataflow through the IC with respect to each identified defective logic function; and
identifying an optimum point in a timing path of a de-

fective logic function to insert a logic breakpoint to enable replacement of the defective logic function.

- [c14] 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the logic breakpoint is set by a comparison of a program count of a program counter for the IC with a preselected count of the program counter.
- [c15] 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the logic breakpoint is set based upon a preselected number of clock cycles of a clock of the IC.
- [c16] 16. The method of claim 1, further including extracting register transfer language (RTL), identifying and implementing RTL updates that are required and feasible.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of scan chains define a plurality of data paths through the IC, and including using separate scan chain clocks and a separate FPGA clock to advance the data of one scan chain at a time independently of other scan chains and the FPGA.
- [c18] 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the FPGA includes an input correction register and an output correction register, and further including storing a program in a RAM to program which bits of a scan chain data stream are used to set the input correction register of the FPGA, and

which bits of the scan chain data stream are replaced with bits from the output correction register of the FPGA.

- [c19] 19. The method of claim 18, wherein a bit mapping generated from the scan chain data corresponding to a stream of data output from the defective logic function passes through the input correction register, an incoming scan chain data stream is captured in input latches of the input correction register if a program count of a program counter of the IC matches a preselected count.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 1, further including providing a multiplexer at an output of the FPGA, and if a program count of a program counter of the IC matches a preselected count, using the multiplexer to replace bit(s) of a scan chain bit stream with bit(s) at the output of the FPGA.
- [c21] 21. The method of claim 1, applied in evaluating error recovery of the IC chip design, wherein data errors are injected through the embedded FPGA into the IC chip, and then the logic function IC design is evaluated as to how well it handles error recovery.
- [c22] 22. An integrated circuit (IC) with logic error detection and correction capability adapted for use with an in-circuit emulator device for logic breakpoint analysis, the

IC comprising:

a system logic function, such as a microprocessor;
an embedded field programmable gate array (FPGA)
adapted to implement logic error correction (EC) to the
system logic function;
a plurality of scan chain data paths in the IC enabling
transfer of data from a plurality of latch circuits at pre-
determined points in a plurality of logic paths of the sys-
tem logic function;
a controller to facilitate transfer of data and control sig-
nals between the system logic function and the embed-
ded FPGA and to determine a plurality of logic break-
points in the system logic function;
a plurality of separate clocks provided for the system
logic function, the FPGA, and for each scan chain data
path.

[c23] 23. The IC of claim 22, further including a plurality of
said embedded FPGAs strategically placed throughout
the IC.

[c24] 24. The IC of claim 22, wherein a plurality of scan chains
define a plurality of data paths through the IC, and a
plurality of said embedded FPGAs are strategically placed
throughout the IC to correct data in the plurality of scan
chains.

- [c25] 25. An integrated circuit (IC) with logic error detection and correction capability adapted for use with an in-circuit emulator device for logic breakpoint analysis, the IC comprising:
- an embedded field programmable gate array (FPGA) adapted to implement logic repairs to the IC;
 - a plurality of scan chains data paths in the IC enabling transfer of data from a plurality of latch circuits at pre-determined points in a plurality of logic paths in the IC;
 - a controller to facilitate transfer of data and control signals between the IC and the embedded FPGA and to determine a plurality of logic breakpoints in the IC;
 - a first clock for the IC,
 - a second clock for the FPGA;
 - a third clock for the controller;
 - a random access memory (RAM) and memory controller to store scan chain programming information;
 - at least one correction register for storing scan chain correction data to be added to one of the plurality of scan chains.
- [c26] 26. The IC of claim 25, further including a plurality of said embedded FPGAs strategically placed throughout the IC.
- [c27] 27. The IC of claim 25, wherein a plurality of scan chains define a plurality of data paths through the IC, and a

plurality of said embedded FPGAs are strategically placed throughout the IC to correct data in the plurality of scan chains.

[c28] 28. A method of debugging and repairing logic errors of an integrated circuit (IC) performing a logic function, and having a system clock, the method comprising the steps of:

incorporating a scan chain function circuit in the IC;
using an external in-circuit emulator for setting a plurality of logic breakpoints in the logic function;
detecting a logic error in the IC;
cycling a scan chain data path through the IC and capturing an input data stream of the scan data path in a set of latches feeding the in-circuit emulator and an embedded field programmable gate array (FPGA);
initiating a waiting state of the IC logic function while a logic function error correction is identified and implemented by the embedded FPGA within a single clock cycle of a system clock for the IC;
repeating the scan chain data path with the logic function repair of the embedded FPGA inserted into the scan chain; and
resuming normal execution and clocking of the IC logic function.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 28, including strategically placing a plurality of said embedded FPGAs throughout the IC.

[c30] 30. The method of claim 28, including defining a plurality of scan chain data paths through the IC, and strategically placing a plurality of said embedded FPGAs throughout the IC to correct data in the plurality of scan chains.